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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/747,029	12/21/2000	Ann Union	11362.0031.NPUS00	3297
7590	10/26/2004			
Patricia A. Kammerer Howrey Simon Arnold & White, LLP 750 Bering Drive Houston, TX 77057-2198				
EXAMINER DIBRINO, MARIANNE NMN				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1644				

DATE MAILED: 10/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER

102004

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Commissioner for Patents

A Supplemental Examiner's amendment and Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary after Notice of Allowability are enclosed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Marianne DiBrino, Art Unit 1644, whose telephone number is 571-272-0842.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. A Supplemental Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given by Mr. Matthew L. Madsen in an interview conducted on 10/20/04.

2. In the claims:

In claim 13, the limitation "according to claim 12" has been deleted at line 1, and the limitation —for use in detecting autoantibodies present in the sera of patients with rheumatoid arthritis—has been added after "A kit" at line 1.

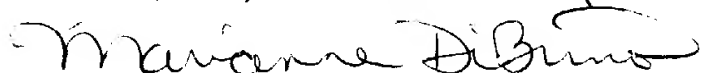
In claims 3, 4, 8, 9 and 14, the limitation "A" has been deleted at the beginning of each said claim, and replaced with the limitation —The—at the beginning of each said claim.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

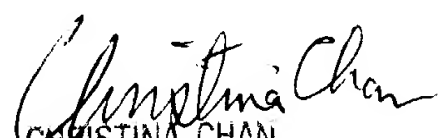
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Marianne DiBrino whose telephone number is 571-272-0842. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Chan Y Christina, can be reached on 571-272-0841.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Marianne DiBrino, Ph.D., Patent Examiner
Group 1640/Technology Center 1600
October 20, 2004



CHRISTINA CHAN
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